

SITUATION REPORT NO. 36
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: May 2, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) officials anticipate that I-29, near Marvel to Canadian border, will be closed for up to 10 days until two feet of water recedes at mile marker 169 between Marvel and Grafton. The interchange at Pembina also is inundated by two feet of flood water.

The Red River continues 11 to 15 feet above flood stage in northeast North Dakota, while levels farther upstream in Wahpeton the river level was three feet above its 10-foot flood stage. The Red River at Pembina on May 2 was 53.86 feet, a 0.30-foot drop during the past 24 hours. The river crested at 54.94 feet on April 26; flood stage is 42 feet. The river at Drayton measured 43.30 feet on May 2, a 0.36-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river crested at Drayton at 45.55 feet on April 25; flood stage is 32 feet. Upstream in Grand Forks, the river level was at 43.22 feet on May 2, dropping 0.59-feet during the past 24 hours. The river at Grand Forks had crested at 54.2 feet on April 22; flood stage is 28 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Organizations providing public shelters for people displaced by the flood have included: the American Red Cross; the communities of Devils Lake, Hatton, Jamestown, Lakewood and Park River; the St. Rose Catholic Church in Hillsboro; the State Park in Rolette; the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation; Park River Bible Camp; Grand

Forks Air Force Base; St. Matthew's Church in Thompson; REM Corp., and the N.D. University System, including Valley City State University and Mayville State University. Twenty public shelters have been in operation. Of those, 16 are still in operation.

Agencies providing mass care include the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, North Dakota churches, N.D. National Guard, U.S. Air Force, REM Corp., Mayville State University, Valley City State University, Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and local governments.

Residents of Oliver County and the city of Center, as well as the business community, have "adopted" the flooded Pembina County communities of Bowesmont and Leroy. The "Adopt-A-Town" project sponsors have two fundraisers planned for Bowesmont and Leroy residents, including a concert at 7 p.m. May 11 at the Center Civic Center, and an auction and bake sale at the Center School gymnasium from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. on May 14. Plans also call for school children to become involved with fundraising efforts, bringing such items as bags of rags and non-perishable food items to school.

The American Red Cross is operating 23 fixed feeding sites and 40 mobile sites, including a drive-thru location in Grand Forks. The Red Cross served 31,469 meals on April 30, more than double the amount served during the previous day. Approximately 600 evacuees stayed at Red Cross shelters on April 30-May 1.

The Salvation Army, as part of "Operation We Care," is coordinating nearly 1,000 volunteers for cleanup efforts in Wahpeton during the May 2-3 weekend. A distribution center in Grand Forks is supplying food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies and water to nearly 3,000 people daily.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A multi-agency office has opened at 1501 South 28th Avenue, Grand Forks, for issuing transient merchant's and contractor's licenses in Grand Forks. Contractors interested in providing flood repair or cleanup services complete applications and obtain a photo identification card at the office. Applications are reviewed and processed by representatives of the city of Grand Forks, the Adjutant General's Office, Secretary of State's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the N.D. Workers Compensation Bureau. The Secretary of State reported that more than 200 licenses were issued on April 28 compared to a daily average of up to four licenses. The Licensing Section of the Attorney General's Office generally issues three merchant licenses per month, but had sent 10 times that many applications in two days. Persons interested in obtaining a transient merchant's license are to call (800) 472-2600, and those interested in a contractor's license are to call (800) 352-0867.

Effective May 3, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Fraine Barracks in Bismarck will be staffed from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Calls after 6 p.m. can be directed to the React Officer.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports that 28,024 North Dakotans had registered damages by May 1 with the National Teleregistration Center. The helpline has received 14,806 calls from North Dakotans wanting information about disaster programs. As of May 1, the N.D. Department of Human Services had issued \$478,247 in Emergency

Food Stamp Benefits to 1,992 North Dakota households.

Efforts are under way to flush the water system at United Hospital, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has stationed water tanker trucks. The N.D. Department of Health hopes to have water tests available on May 3. Approximately 40 United Hospital volunteers are assembling supplemental cleanup kits ordered by the Department of Health. The agency also is scheduled to receive 44,000 rubber gloves donated by Johnson & Johnson.

N.D. National Guard Red River Valley operations in progress include helping Walhalla resolve problems created by a water main break, transporting sandbags from Neche to Devils Lake, and processing and purifying water in Grand Forks. Crews are also removing cattle from waterways in Logan, McLean and Sioux Counties. Since operations began, 1,783 National Guard members have responded to the disaster. As of May 1, there were 682 members on State Active Duty. The National Guard had two pending missions, 34 in progress and 248 completed.

The Department of Human Services is working with the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance to find housing for up to 90 developmentally disabled people, who have been displaced by flooding in Grand Forks.

Northeast Human Service Center in Grand Forks will reopen for business on May 5.

The N.D. Historical Society has offered the assistance of its architect to help with flood-damage inspections of historic property in the Grand Forks area.

Displaced flood victims who have applied for assistance are being contacted by housing inspectors, primarily by phone. Applicants are asked to verify if they own or occupy the damaged property during the disaster and if it is their primary residence. They may also be asked to copy or fax identification such as a driver's license or utility bill.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Douglas C. Friez, State Director